

## Message Text

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63

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

SAM-01 /081 W

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R 091141Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9977

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 6878

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SY, XF

SUBJECT: SYRIA CELEBRATES THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF OCTOBER 1973 WAR

1. SYRIAN MEDIA HAVE DEVOTED FULL COVERAGE TO EVENTS COMMEMORATING OCT 1973 WAR. MOST IMPORTANT WAS OPENING OF FIFTH ARAB OLYMPIC GAMES. ABSENCE OF IRAQ, EGYPT, ALGERIA, LIBYA AND NORTH YEMEN, HOWEVER, DEMONSTRATED EXTENT TO WHICH SPIRIT OF ARAB UNITY HAS DETERIORATED SINCE 1973. NONETHELESS, MEDIA INVOKED OCTOBER SPIRIT REGULARLY AS MOTIVATION TO ANIMATE RENEWED ATTEMPTS TO LIBERATE ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND SECURE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS.

2. PRESS HEADLINES DURING PAST FEW DAYS FOCUSED ON CELEBRATIONS: "SYRIA WILL REMAIN LOYAL TO IMMORTAL SPIRIT OF OCT WAR. AIM OF SINAI ACCORD IS TO USURP SUBSTANCE OF ARAB VICTORY. OCTOBER, AND PRESENCE OF ARAB YOUTH IN DAMASCUS, EMBODY WILL FOR LIBERATION, SPIRIT OF STTEADFASTNESS AND MARCH OF VICTORY."

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3. PRESS INTERVIEWED NUMBER OF SOLDIERS WHO PARTICIPATED

IN OCT WAR, AS WELL AS PROMINENT LOCAL POLITICANS  
AND MILITARY LEADERS. DR. RIF'AT AL-ASAD RE-EMERGED  
AS A BAATHIST THEORITICIAN AND SPOKESMAN, CALLING IN ONE  
EDITORIAL FOR "MORE OCTOBERS." DENOUNCING CAPITULATIONIST  
SENTIMENTS OF PRES. SADAT AND REMINDING PALESTINIANS OF  
THEIR UN "TRIUMPHS" SINCE 1973. HE LAMBASTED "SOME  
PALESTINIAN LEADERS WHO DO NOT REPRESENT PALESTINIAN  
CAUSE."

4. COMMENT: ABSENCE OF ATHLETES FROM KEY ARAB STATES AND  
CRITICISM LEVELLED AT IRAQIS, EGYPTIANS AND DEVIATIONIST  
PALESTINAIN LEADERS PROVIDED MARKET CONTRAST WITH INVO-  
CATION OF OCT SPIRIT OF UNITY. PRESS ARTICLES, INTERVIEWS  
AND EDITORIAL COMMENTARY RETRACED FAMILIAR RHETORICAL GROUND.  
MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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